



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The problems are well stated. It might in most cases have been better to reserve judgment, leaving conclusions to teacher and class. Aside from class room use the book contains a fine, clear resume of our situation for the average citizen.

Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison, Volume I, 1800-1811. Edited by LOGAN ESAREY, Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Commission, 1922. Pp. XXXIV, 744.

THIS volume is the seventh of the Indiana Historical Collections, and the first in a series of Governors' Messages and Letters to be published by the Indiana Historical Commission. The second volume in the series will appear soon. It will complete the Harrison papers.

In the volume under review, the editor has brought together much matter in addition to messages and letters of Governor Harrison. Speeches, military orders, resolutions of the territorial assembly, proclamations, and various other official notices and instructions are included. The volume also includes many letters from the war department, and several from President Jefferson. The collection is a valuable one which will prove helpful to all students of the history of Indiana territory, and indeed to all who are interested in the history of the west, at that period.

The beginnings of a colony west of the Alleghanies are no less interesting than the beginnings of a colony along the Atlantic coast. Problems of government confronting the governor of a territory, the agent of the American federal government, were no less important than those that had confronted governors sent from Great Britain to the old thirteen colonies. The pioneers of early Indiana had to solve problems very similar to those solved by the early settlers of the seaboard communities. Often, the questions and tasks that faced the western colonists were more perplexing and difficult. The contributions to American ideals and institutions by those pioneers who established civilization in western areas where none had existed before were no less valuable than those of colonists of the older areas to the east of the mountains.

The Ordinance of 1787 provided a scheme of dealing with colonies that was new to colonial history, and Governor Har-

ri-son in carrying out this scheme was applying a political program without precedents to guide him except those furnished by recent experience in the older portion of the Northwest territory. In addition to the source matter presented in the Harrison papers throwing light on the Indian history of the time, on the life and customs of the pioneers, on the public lands question, and on the slavery issue, we have evidence of how well the scheme of colonial government operated. The people rejoiced in the opportunity to pass from the first stage to the second, and were inspired when they looked forward to the time when statehood would be conferred.

In his address to the new General Assembly on July 29, 1805, Governor Harrison said:

By a compact which is coeval with the establishment of government northwest of the Ohio, the right of being admitted, as soon as our population will justify, into the great family which composes the American Union, is firmly secured to us. Let us unite our exertions, fellow citizens, to hasten a consummation which is to restore to us all our political rights, and to place us in the elevated station of a free, sovereign, and independent State, equal to our sister States in dignity and rights. (P. 158.)

How many governors of colonies in the history of the world to that time had been privileged to utter such inspiring words? In the reply of the house of representatives we have the following:

We look forward with peculiar satisfaction to the period when our population will enable us to assume the dignity of a stable government . . .; and we will readily concur in any measure that will have a tendency to promote our political emancipation. (P. 160.)

The response of the Legislative Council is even more eloquent of the capacity of the western pioneer leaders to appreciate the political significance of the fundamental provision of the Ordinance of 1787:

Although we are not as completely independent in our legislative capacity as we would wish to be, yet we are sensible that we must wait with patience for that period of time when our population will burst the trammels of a territorial government, and we shall assume a character more consonant to republicanism, and which alone will secure to the inhabitants of the territory a full participation of the rights now

enjoyed by the citizens of the United States. That period we hope is not far distant. (P. 160.)

The publication of this volume is an event in Indiana. The thanks of all interested in the preservation of the sources of our history are due to the Historical Commission and to the editor, who has done his work so well. Our General Assembly should have made possible years ago the undertaking of which the publication of this volume is a beginning. May no future session of the Indiana legislature fail to give adequate support to the work of the Indiana Historical Commission.

WILLIAM O. LYNCH.